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# AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION

LEGAL, ECONOMIC, AND ORGANIZATION INFORMATION COLLECTED BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,  
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## STANDARDIZATION NECESSARY FOR COOPERATIVE MARKETING

Whether handled by cooperative marketing associations or private corporations agricultural products must be standardized. This is necessary in order that they may be marketed in conformity to the sound business principles which are recognized in the distribution of manufactured lines. There is scarcely one important marketing function which can not be performed more effectively when the commodity is graded to recognized and definite specifications. Rigid adherence to such standards is especially necessary, however, in the case of cooperative agencies and indeed is set down by practically all authorities as a basic prerequisite to success.

In the first place, the great object of cooperative marketing associations is to enable small producers to secure the advantages which accrue to large-scale operations, such as lower transportation costs, better facilities for assembling, and more intelligent distribution. A relatively large volume of produce is required to bear equitably the heavy overhead expenses of such organizations, and in drawing tonnage from a whole community there are, as a rule, wide variations in quality of the individual crops. The failure to recognize these variations has probably contributed more often than any other one cause to the failure of cooperative enterprises. It is true that some individual sacrifices for the good of the cause must be made, particularly in the early stages of organization, but it can not be expected that producers will continue to make great efforts to maintain high standards only to see their products lumped indiscriminately with those of inferior quality. Further, the practice of pooling the shipments of the various members is becoming practically universal among cooperative marketing agencies. There are sure to be poor sales as well as good sales and it seems only fair that the members should share alike the ups and downs of the market. Without a proper system of grading, the practice of pooling would impose a direct penalty on the best class of producers.

Standard grades constitute a common language between buyers and sellers, which is more than ever indispensable in these days when agricultural products from the four quarters of the globe compete in the world markets. They facilitate trading, serving as a basis for:

1. Future contracts.
2. Sales f. o. b. shipping points, in transit, and in other circumstances where the buyer can not exercise the privilege of inspection.
3. Government inspection, adjustments and claims.
4. The intelligent comparison of market prices.

In addition to these benefits which obtain by reason of a complete understanding between buyers and sellers as to the precise character of the product, there are other advantages which result from the actual sorting of the commodity, in so far as this is practicable, into classes which meet the particular requirements of the trade. This operation permits wider distribution because:

1. The more perishable lots may be sold without waste in nearby markets or utilized for by-products purposes, leaving the remainder for shipment to more remote points.
2. Properly graded products may be held safely in storage, thus extending the marketing season.
3. Certain classes of buyers are attracted who do not handle products of indiscriminate quality.
4. Any sound advertising program must be backed up by uniform, dependable products.

A most important benefit of standardization is the gaining of good will. Confidence in the products of a cooperative organization and in its general business methods makes financing easier, increases demand, and reduces the margins of middlemen.

No discussion of the influence of standardization would be complete without reference to the reaction upon production and handling practices. The enforcement of standard grades at the point of production not only directs the attention of the grower to his mistakes, thus setting him about correcting them, but also insures him a proper remuneration for adopting more careful and effective methods.

Perhaps for the very reason that standard grades for farm products are so closely associated with success in cooperative marketing enterprises, such organizations have done the most to advance their use. Groups of growers working for their mutual benefit have often maintained voluntarily standards which would have been entirely impracticable had the trade attempted their imposition. The necessity for standards in the marketing of agricultural products can no longer be regarded as a debatable point. For the present the great problems relate to their effective application.

H. W. Samson.

(Mr. Samson is Specialist in Standardization, U.S. Department of Agriculture. He received his B. S. degree from the University of California in 1911. Before coming to the Department in 1918 he served in the employ of two fruit growers' associations in the Pacific Northwest, and as a member of a firm of fruit buyers, and was employed six years as District Horticultural Inspector for the State of Washington).



STATUS OF ADVANCES MADE BY COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATIONS

It is a rather common practice for cooperative associations to make advances to some or all of their members on the delivery of their products. Of course, it is assumed that the products when sold will bring an amount which will, after making allowances for the overhead and other expenses of the association, equal or exceed the amount of the advance. What is the situation in case the products when sold bring less than the amount of the advance? May an association recover the amount of the "excess advance" from members receiving it? The answer to this question in the case of a given association will, of course, depend upon the particular facts involved. However, if, as would probably be true, in practically all instances the facts show it was contemplated that each member would only receive his proportionate share of the proceeds arising on the sale of the products, it is believed that an association could recover the amount of the excess advance.

The right of one to recover money paid through mistake is well established, *Wood v. Sheldon*, 42 N. J. L. 421; *Rodliff v. Dallinger*, 144 Mass. 1. Commission men or agents frequently make advances to their shippers or principals on consignments received from them. The right of a commission man to recover from his shipper in the event the consignment fails to bring as much as the amount of the advance and the charges involved is also well established. *Re Joseph Murphy Company* 214 Pa. 256, 63 Atl. 743, 5 L.R.A. (N.S.) 1147. The various cases which have been cited by analogy support the right of a cooperative association to recover from members to whom excess advances have been made. It is believed that there are only two reported cases involving cooperative associations in which the right of an association to recover excess advances has been raised. One is the recent case (February 10, 1923) of *Farmers' Union Cooperative Shipping Association of Matoma v. Schultze*, decided by the Supreme Court of Kansas, 212 Pac. 670. The other is the case of the *California Raisin Growers' Association v. Abbott*, (1911) 100 Cal. 601, 117 Pac. 767. In each of these cases the right of an association to recover under the circumstances in question was recognized. In the last case, excess advances were made by the association to some 600 growers. The association brought suit against the growers to whom excess advances had been made, for an accounting and for a judgment for the excess amount received by each of them, and was successful in obtaining the relief sought. The rights of creditors of the association were involved and they were parties to the litigation.

L. S. Hulbert.

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NEW HOUSE ORGAN FOR STAPLE COTTON ASSOCIATION

The Staple Cotton Review is the title of the new official organ of the Staple Cotton Cooperative Association, Greenwood, Miss., issued twice a month primarily for its membership. The first issue is dated February 1. A. H. Stone is the editor.

### NINE TIMES AS MUCH COOPERATIVE SELLING AS COOPERATIVE BUYING

Collective buying is done by many farmers' marketing associations. Some associations conduct lumber yards, fuel yards, warehouses or stores, while other associations merely assemble orders for the purchase in carlots of fertilizers, seeds, spraying material, containers, and other supplies. In the course of a year cooperative purchasing amounts to many millions of dollars, yet it is but a small item compared with collective selling. According to information compiled by the Fourteenth Census, 624,527 farms reported cooperative selling or buying in 1919. The total amount of the sales and purchases was \$806,599,308. Of this amount \$721,983,369, or 89.5%, represented sales and 10.5% represented purchases.

Data collected by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, in 1921 from 4,133 farmers' business organizations in the twelve North Central States indicate the varieties of commodities purchased by the different types of associations. Over 40% of the 4,133 associations purchased feeds of various kinds, more than 34% purchased fuel, and 24% purchased containers, including binder twine. The twelve States in the North Central group are: Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas.

The number of associations purchasing the various lines of commodities and the percentage which each number is of the total number of associations, is given below:

| Number and Kind of Associations<br>Purchasing Different Lines of Commodities, 1921 |        |         |        |        |          |         |        |         |          |         |
|--|--------|---------|--------|--------|----------|---------|--------|---------|----------|---------|
| Commodities:   | Dairy: | Fruit : | Grain: | Live : | Poultry: | Wool :  | Misc.: | Total : | Per Cent |         |
| Purchased :  |        | & Veg.: |        | Stock: | Prod. :  | Mohair: |        | ing :   | Report-  | Report- |
|  |        |         |        |        |          |         |        |         | ing      | ing     |
| Feeds  | 68     | 48      | 1114   | 244    | 3        | 6       | 132    | 1,665   | 40.28    |         |
| Fuel   | 84     | 6       | 1169   | 79     | 0        | 3       | 83     | 1,424   | 34.45    |         |
| Containers   | 152    | 55      | 575    | 117    | 0        | 9       | 83     | 996     | 24.09    |         |
| Seeds  | 32     | 25      | 374    | 89     | 1        | 1       | 84     | 606     | 14.66    |         |
| Fencing  | 60     | 8       | 308    | 157    | 2        | 3       | 52     | 590     | 14.27    |         |
| Implements   |        |         |        |        |          |         |        |         |          |         |
| & Machinery  | 100    | 13      | 324    | 71     | 1        | 1       | 53     | 563     | 13.62    |         |
| Spray Mat'l  | 124    | 55      | 170    | 96     | 0        | 0       | 55     | 500     | 12.69    |         |
| Fertilizers  | 79     | 23      | 240    | 85     | 0        | 4       | 63     | 494     | 11.95    |         |
| Building   |        |         |        |        |          |         |        |         |          |         |
| Material   | 12     | 5       | 316    | 73     | 2        | 3       | 32     | 443     | 10.71    |         |
| Hardware   | 99     | 6       | 130    | 130    | 2        | 3       | 41     | 411     | 9.94     |         |
| Gen. Mdse.   | 4      | 3       | 49     | 7      | 0        | 0       | 18     | 81      | 1.95     |         |
| Misc.*   | 144    | 36      | 314    | 58     | 1        | 0       | 112    | 665     | 16.09    |         |

\*Associations failing to report commodities purchased.

It will be noted that the grain associations purchased largely fuel and feeds; the live stock shipping associations, feeds, fencing and hardware; and the dairy associations, containers, machinery and spraying materials.

SIXTY-FOUR PER CENT OF FRUIT SOLD AT AUCTION

Gross sales of fruit in 1922 by the California Fruit Exchange, Sacramento, Calif., for its 4,500 growers, amounted to \$15,046,775.84, according to the annual report of the general manager. This was an increase of \$325,174.96 over the previous season. However, as 2,279 more cars were shipped to Eastern markets in 1922, a total of 8,500, the increase in dollars was not proportionate to the increase in cars, and the average gross per car was \$500 less than in the 1921 season. The fruit was sold in 265 markets and sixty-four per cent was sold at auction, the remainder in private sales.

Great difficulties were encountered in marketing the extremely large crop of 1922 on account of the serious car shortage and on account of reduced consumption by the large numbers of unemployed. Claims against the railroads, largely for losses due to delays in 1922, exceed \$250,000. The sum of \$78,533.94 was collected in railroad claims on the business of 1921 and paid to the growers.

A refund account, known as "Withholdings Repayable," is maintained by the Exchange for use in financing its various operations. This fund now amounts to \$1,332,454.33. Of the gross sales of 1922, 4% was deposited in this fund and it is expected that 2% will be paid to growers during the present year and the remainder left in the fund for five years. The refunds from this account now form attractive dividends. Frequently they amount to enough to finance the growers through the season without outside assistance.

The lumber department, created by means of the withholding fund, in 1922 returned the amount of \$34,133.25. The Exchange owns about 12,000 acres of timber with 300,000,000 feet of standing lumber. The investment in timber land, saw mill, box factory, town site, etc., is \$1,328,628.04. Three hundred twenty-nine cars of shook were furnished the Exchange in 1922, 67 cars of shook were sold, also 319 cars of lumber, making a total of 715 cars. It is estimated that the timber supply will last the Exchange for 35 years.

Difficulties in marketing in 1922 emphasized the necessity for better grading and packing, accordingly a department of standardization and grades has been created and a specialist from the California Division of Markets secured to take charge of the work. It is proposed to prepare for market fruit that will "demand a premium over all packs of fruit in Eastern markets."

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POULTRY ASSOCIATION DEVELOPS NEW MARKETS FOR WESTERN EGGS

Established tentatively as a selling agency for five poultry associations, the Pacific Poultry Producers, San Francisco, Calif., sold 215,597 cases of eggs for its members in 1922. New markets were developed on the Pacific Coast, at points in California, Arizona, Nevada and Hawaii. These markets consumed 15% of the 1922 crop as compared with 7 1/2% in 1921, while 24% went to New York and other Eastern markets as compared with 32% in 1921.



INCREASED BUSINESS SHOWN BY PRODUCERS' COMMISSION FIRMS

A statement issued by the National Live Stock Producers' Commission Association, Chicago, Ill., gives the following figures regarding the number of cars of stock handled at terminal markets during 1922 by its six agencies:

|                 | <u>Cars</u> |
|-----------------|-------------|
| January .....   | 250         |
| February .....  | 334         |
| March .....     | 432         |
| April .....     | 451         |
| May .....       | 914         |
| June .....      | 1,540       |
| July .....      | 1,490       |
| August .....    | 1,784       |
| September ..... | 1,744       |
| October .....   | 2,072       |
| November .....  | 3,755       |
| December .....  | 3,775       |

This rapid increase is accounted for in part by the fact that the East St. Louis office was the only one in operation the first four months, while the Indianapolis office was opened in May, the Chicago and Peoria offices in June, and the Buffalo and Fort Worth offices in November. That the percentage of the total business at the six markets is also increasing is shown by the table below:

|                 | <u>Per Cent of Total</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| January .....   | 3.5                      |
| February .....  | 0.4                      |
| March .....     | 8.4                      |
| April .....     | 9.0                      |
| May .....       | 10.5                     |
| June .....      | 6.7                      |
| July .....      | 4.9                      |
| August .....    | 5.4                      |
| September ..... | 5.1                      |
| October .....   | 5.5                      |
| November .....  | 7.8                      |
| December .....  | 3.8                      |
| Average .....   | 6.7                      |

During January, 1923, the five agencies at Buffalo, Chicago, Indianapolis, East St. Louis and Peoria, handled a total of 229,271 animals, with a total value of \$5,776,371.12. The amount paid for freight was \$182,135.17; for yardage, \$33,059.26; for hay and corn, \$26,833.34; for printing and stationery, \$1,569.84. The Chicago office handled the largest number of animals, 68,388, or 1,342 cars; Indianapolis came next with 68,010 animals; East St. Louis handled 57,342; Buffalo, 37,984; and Peoria, 14,931. The number of account sales issued for the month by the five firms was 6,825.



NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION LOST MONEY IN 1922

Attempting to perform marketing services on too low a commission basis, resulted in a net loss for 1922 to the New Hampshire Cooperative Marketing Association, Manchester, N. H., of \$1,533.19. Eggs were the most important commodity handled in 1922 and the 5% commission charged failed to cover the expense. Accordingly, at the annual meeting it was decided to change from the commission basis to a straight charge of 3 1/2¢ per dozen for selling eggs, to require each shipper to purchase at least one share of stock at \$10, and to sign a contract to sell all his eggs through the association. It was further decided to make payments for eggs every two weeks for the present instead of weekly as heretofore, and to set aside 3% from every sale of eggs for a reserve fund. This reserve fund is to be held in the names of members, is to bear 6% interest, and is to be paid back as soon as the directors feel that sufficient capital has been accumulated from other sources to carry on business.

The business handled by the association increased from \$83,000 in 1921 to \$257,331 in 1922, and with better financing methods the management hopes to be of even greater service another year.

Efforts are to be made to secure more eggs. "Just-Laid" eggs are in demand and one firm which is now receiving 500 cases a week states that it can handle from 1,000 to 1,500 cases a week.

Wool was the chief commodity handled in 1921, 56,000 pounds being sold at an average price of 35¢ a pound. Much of the wool was manufactured into blankets and cloth before being sold.

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NEW STATE-WIDE TRUCK ASSOCIATION FOR MISSISSIPPI

A recently organized association in Mississippi is known as the Mississippi Farm Bureau Truck Association, Inc., with headquarters at Jackson. This company announces in a leaflet that it is to supersede the Mississippi Truck Growers, Inc., which has functioned for the past two years as the selling agency for 19 truck associations throughout the State, handling several hundred cars.

The new association is aided and advised by the Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College, the Mississippi Farm Bureau, and certain business interests of the State. It expects to ship produce during 1923 from 44 points in the State and to handle same through the regular channels of trade. Efforts are being made to emphasize the importance of shipping only the best quality, and with the aid of demonstration agents the growers are to be instructed during the next few months in the best methods of producing, harvesting and packing crops, and the value of a quality pack. Regulations have been prepared and mimeographed for grading and packing carrots, beets, peas, turnips, cabbage, white potatoes, sweet potatoes, and watermelons. Rigid inspection of every car is planned and only high quality truck will be sold under the "Magnolia Brand."

LIVE STOCK SHIPPERS RECEIVE LARGE PERCENTAGE OF SALES

The annual reports of five Minnesota live-stock shipping associations show that during the past year they shipped to market 672 cars of stock, which sold for the sum of \$837,696. Of this amount \$794,536, or 94.8% was returned to patrons. Details for the individual associations are shown below:

| Association         | :Number Cars: | Receipts from: | Paid to     | : Per Cent |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|------------|
|                     | : Shipped     | : Sales        | : Patrons   | : of Total |
| Traverse County     | :             | :              | :           | :          |
| Shipping Assn.      | : 146         | : \$206,551    | : \$190,912 | : 92.4     |
| Hope Live Stock     | :             | :              | :           | :          |
| Shipping Assn.      | : 296         | : **345,607    | : 339,005   | : 98.6     |
| Fergus Falls L. S.: | :             | :              | :           | :          |
| Shipping Assn.*     | : 87          | : 114,884      | : 103,469   | : 90.0     |
| Winthrop Farmers'   | :             | :              | :           | :          |
| Shipping Assn.      | : 107         | : 135,099      | : 126,592   | : 93.7     |
| Elko Live Stock     | :             | :              | :           | :          |
| Shipping Assn.      | : 36          | : 37,555       | : 34,558    | : 92.0     |
| Total               | 672           | : 837,696      | : 794,536   | :          |

\*Eleven months only.

\*\*Freight not included.

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PIMA COTTON SOLD FOR 36 CENTS IN MARCH

The highest prices received this season locally for Pima cotton were received early in March when the Arizona Pimacotton Growers, Phoenix, Ariz., sold 1,000 bales of No. 1 Pima for 36¢ a pound and 150 bales of No. 2 Pima for 35¢ a pound, all f. o. b. Phoenix. As a result of this sale the sum of \$100,000 will be distributed at once to members of the association. The cotton is to be used in the manufacture of fabric for high-grade automobile tires.

After a careful study of the cotton situation in the Salt River Valley the directors of the Arizona Pimacotton Growers have decided that the interests of the association demand one or more gins and an oil mill operated directly for its members, and steps are to be taken to acquire same at once.

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NEW JERSEY'S COOPERATIVE MARKETING BILL VETOED

The cooperative marketing bill before the New Jersey legislature passed both houses with practically no opposition but was vetoed by Governor Silzer who declared it was "a recognized modern method of fixing prices and keeping them up."

NORTH CENTRAL STATES LEAD IN COOPERATIVE SELLING AND BUYING

According to data compiled as part of the Fourteenth Census, from three-fifths to three-fourths of the cooperative selling and buying by farmers of the United States in 1919 was by those in the twelve North Central States: Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas. The total number of farms reporting sales through farmers' marketing organizations was 511,333. Of this number 537,627, or 75.79% were in the North Central States. The number of farms reporting purchases through farmers' organizations was 329,449, and of this number 249,602, or 75.76% were in the twelve States mentioned.

When measured in terms of dollars the percentage for this group of States is not so large as when measured by number of farms buying and selling cooperatively. This is largely because of the heavy cooperative selling done by California farmers. The total amount of cooperative selling and buying in 1919 was \$806,539,308, and the amount for the North Central States was \$490,381,925, or 60.85% of the total.

The farms in the different geographic divisions contributed to the total sales in the following percentages:

| <u>Division</u>          | <u>Percentage</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| West North Central ..... | 41.67             |
| Pacific .....            | 20.93             |
| East North Central ..... | 18.37             |
| Middle Atlantic .....    | 8.48              |
| West South Central ..... | 3.73              |
| South Atlantic .....     | 2.86              |
| Mountain .....           | 2.41              |
| New England .....        | .82               |
| East South Central ..... | .73               |
| Total .....              | 100.00            |

The same farms in the same divisions participated in cooperative purchasing as follows:

| <u>Division</u>          | <u>Percentage</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| West North Central ..... | 50.95             |
| East North Central ..... | 16.91             |
| Pacific .....            | 9.48              |
| Middle Atlantic .....    | 7.32              |
| Mountain .....           | 4.46              |
| New England .....        | 3.59              |
| West South Central ..... | 3.31              |
| South Atlantic .....     | 3.06              |
| East South Central ..... | .90               |
| Total .....              | 100.00            |



The individual States whose farmers contributed most largely to the total of the cooperative sales and the percentage contribution for the farms of each State are indicated below:

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| California ..... | 17.72% |
| Minnesota .....  | 11.46% |
| Iowa .....       | 8.22%  |
| Illinois .....   | 6.63%  |

The States whose farmers participated most largely in the co-operative purchasing activities were as follows:

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| Kansas .....    | 11.42% |
| Nebraska .....  | 11.41% |
| Iowa .....      | 7.99%  |
| Minnesota ..... | 7.85%  |

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#### STAPLE COTTON ASSOCIATION SELLS 15,000 BALES

The Staple Cotton Cooperative Association, Greenwood, Miss., announces a sale of 15,000 bales of cotton on February 23, 1923, to New England trade interests. The sale specifies three grades and two staples. The basis of the sale is so many points on July futures, sellers' call, and the shipment is for equal parts of the order to be shipped during the last half of March, April and May, and the first half of June.

On the first day of March, the Staple Cotton Cooperative Association had distributed to its members on the 1922 crop, \$16,832,097.47.

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#### LIMESTONE CRUSHED COOPERATIVELY IN MISSOURI

In more than a hundred Missouri communities the farmers are securing agricultural lime close at hand through cooperative methods. One plan is to have the soil tested to determine the need for lime, pool the orders, and turn them over to some man who will purchase a portable pulverizer and grind the limestone on contract. Another plan is to organize a limestone crusher association, sell shares, draw up contracts, purchase the necessary machinery, etc. The College of Agriculture and the county extension agents stand ready to assist in this work by testing soils and giving advice where needed.



FOUR HUNDRED MINNESOTA CREAMERIES JOIN FORCES

Net receipts of \$105,040.28, for the year 1922, are shown by the financial statement of the Minnesota Cooperative Creameries Association, St. Paul, Minn. Expenses for the year amounted to \$92,369.13, made up of the following items: general office expense, \$26,999.53; association field expense, \$21,771.74; district field expense, \$34,107.58; New York office, \$9,490.28. General office expense includes an item of \$1,890.88 for advertising, and one of \$1,431.97 for dairy show expense. Capital stock outstanding amounts to \$20,337.

During 1922 the association shipped 1,826 carloads of butter, and the net saving through shipping in carlots is given as \$118 per car or a total of \$215,466. Four hundred and three creameries are now included in the membership. The average cost of joining the association is given as \$59.35 per creamery; the average dues per month for butter shipped, \$18.70, and on butter fat \$32.84, or a total of \$51.54 per month per creamery. This amounted to the average price of one pound of butter fat per month per patron.

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INDIANA ASSOCIATION REPORTS ON 1922 BUSINESS

The Kendallville Live Stock Shippers' Association, Kendallville, Ind., during the year ending Dec. 6, 1922, marketed a total of 9,182 head of live stock, weighing 2,025,170 pounds. This included 6,722 hogs, 310 cattle, 1,626 sheep and 524 calves. The gross receipts for live stock were \$183,933.02, from which the sum of \$170,491.99 was returned to shippers. Eastern marketing expense amounted to \$11,417.26; local marketing expense to \$143.75; manager's commission, \$761.49; secretary-treasurer's commission, \$761.49; running expenses and incidentals, \$185.09; membership fee to Producers' Cooperative Commission Association, \$62.50.

Fertilizer, feed, coal, fencing and binder twine are also handled and the total gross receipts for the year were \$184,813.77. The net worth of the association on December 6, 1922, was \$1,332.49. The association was organized June 29, 1917, and carried on a business of \$75,000 the first year. The membership numbers 202. (Financial and Statistical Report, Dec. 6, 1922).

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SELLS NEARLY TWO MILLION BARRELS OF RICE

The American Rice Growers' Association, Lake Charles, La., in its annual business statement dated June 1, 1922, shows sales of 1,992,133 barrels of rough rice for \$7,232,134.95, of which the sum of \$7,042,921.65 was returned to the growers. This amounts to 97.26% of the selling price. Total expenses for the year were \$186,232.38, of which salaries amounted to \$110,775.78. The association has 1,494 members and maintains 30 sales offices.

BILL PROVIDING FOR COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATIONS OF CONSUMERS

A bill, H. B. No. 528, has been introduced in the Ohio General Assembly which provides for cooperative associations of consumers. The bill defines a cooperative company or association as one "which authorizes the distribution of its earnings in part or wholly on the basis of, or in proportion to, the amount of property bought for the use of its own members or of labor performed or other service rendered to such company or association." Five or more persons may organize such an association, with or without capital stock, which may "act as agent for its members" in the buying of produce or supplies.

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BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT HAVE INCREASED IN VALUE

According to the condensed, consolidated, balance sheet, as of December 31, 1922, the Cooperative Grange League Federation Exchange, Inc., and the Producers' Warehouse and Elevator Company, Inc., Syracuse, N. Y., own warehouses, equipment and office fixtures amounting to over half a million of dollars. The amount of outstanding capital stock at the close of the year was \$667,325. An operating loss of \$151,539.63, which has accumulated since the organization of the corporations, has been offset by appreciation on buildings and equipment to the amount of \$103,730.18, leaving the net deficit, as of December 31, \$47,809.45.

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AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION IN INDIA

The Indian Department of Statistics has recently issued statistics showing the progress of the cooperative movement in India during 1920-21. Excluding insurance societies, the number of primary societies increased from 36,299 agricultural and 2,562 non-agricultural in 1919-20, to 42,149 agricultural and 3,322 non-agricultural societies, respectively. The total membership of the agricultural societies in 1920-21 was 1,355,474, and that of the non-agricultural societies, 390,413.

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MISSOURI COTTON GROWERS ISSUE NEW PERIODICAL

The first number of a new publication entitled "The Missouri Co-operator," was issued March 26, as the official publication of the Missouri Cotton Growers' Cooperative Association, now in process of organization, with headquarters at Sikeston, Mo. The editor of the new periodical is Charles M. Morgan who was secretary of the first conference of the National Council of Farmers' Cooperative Marketing Associations, held in Washington, D. C., December 14, 15 and 16, 1922.